

## **CASE STUDY: Griffiths – Minimising Plastic Waste on Site**

Griffiths is one of the leading civil engineering and construction companies operating in Wales, the English border counties, and the West of England. Over the past few years, Griffiths has been striving to provide the infrastructure to support an active economy without imposing a detrimental impact on the environment.

Griffiths is working to protect and enhance biodiverse, natural ecosystems through implementing its annual '**Sustainability Challenge**' across its sites. The Sustainability Challenge is a sustainable development action plan which establishes ambitious targets for preserving the environment.

The core objectives of the Sustainability Challenge as are follows:

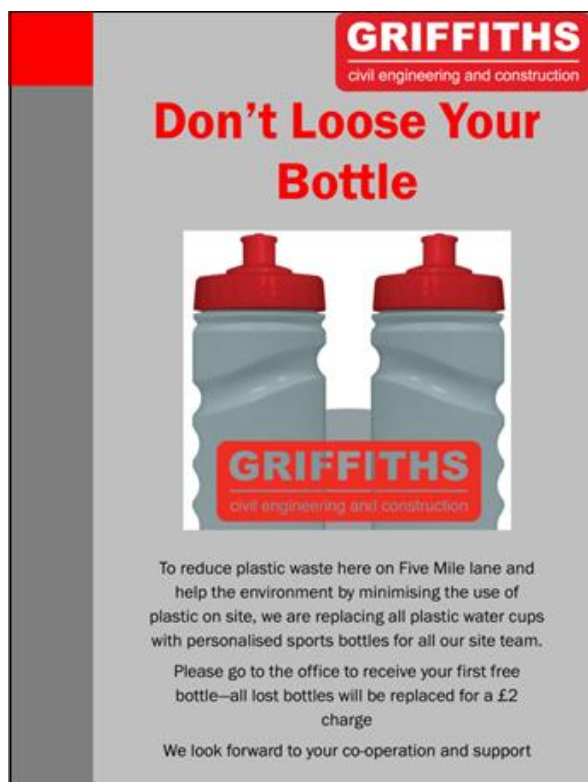
- Reducing its impact on climate change.
- Minimising its impact on the natural environment.
- Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and ecological resilience.
- Minimising its demand on natural resources through waste management, reuse, and recycling.

In recent years, the fundamental aim of the Sustainability Challenge has been to ensure the efficient waste management of plastics and packaging is implemented across its sites. As a result, an impressive 90% of waste produced on site is recycled or reused. However, Griffiths hopes to improve this target by a further 5% in forthcoming years.

In addition, Griffiths has been working with its supply chain to ensure materials used on site are derived from sustainable sources that can be reused or recycled, and to support Griffiths' packaging reduction targets. This is to improve recycling practice, to promote environmental awareness and sustainable development across the supply chain, and to prevent the unnecessary generation of waste.

### **Don't Lose Your Bottle Campaign**

At the Five Mile Lane improvements site in Barry, South Wales, Griffiths is reducing and protecting the environment by minimising the consumption of single-use plastics on site. As shown in the 'Don't Lose Your Bottle' campaign, Griffiths has replaced all plastic cups with personalised, reusable sports bottles, for all site operatives.



Alongside abolishing single-use plastics across its sites, Griffiths has implemented this environmental strategy across its office to ensure the entire workforce, both on site and in the office, are aware of the environmental risks associated with plastics and packaging.

Griffiths believes that educating the workforce about sustainability, living within our means, and protecting the environment for future generations is paramount. Currently, 44% of staff have received environmental awareness training, while fortnightly toolbox talks covering environmental issues are delivered on site to ensure the significance of preserving the environment is communicated across the workforce.

### **A350 Chippenham Site**

Griffiths has recently completed its construction work on the A350 near Chippenham, where the site used local suppliers and sourced materials with a high recycled content to prevent the production of unsustainable plastic and packaging waste. The site team recycled and reused worn materials such as surface plannings within the permanent works to avoid the unnecessary disposal of waste to landfill. Both environmental strategies are great examples of best practice and are being promoted across all its sites.

Griffiths is working extensively to protect the environment, to promote sustainability, and to encourage efficient waste management across its sites. Griffiths is encouraging all sites across the UK to introduce similar initiatives to help protect the environment.

To find out more about Griffiths, please click [here](#) to visit their website.